

Subject: HASSEIN, Nikolay [

Source: [] HECASSO [] 157

Date: 6 Jan. 1966

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Meeting took place on campus of Columbia University on 5 Jan. 1966 at 6:00 P.M. Source was walking with friend Andriy Vytvytsky, when he was approached by Subject. A conversation ensued and Source introduced Vytvytsky to Subject. Subject was pleased to meet him, and said that he will gladly meet him again. Source then went to Subject's room where conversation took place.
2. During the conversation in the room, Subject was visited by ODABASYAN, Boris Angshanovich, an exchange student from the USSR studying chemistry at Columbia University. ODABASYAN is from Khovan University, nationality Armenian. He is app. 35 years old, 5'6", 145 lbs, black hair, dark complexion. By nature he seems quiet and reserved, while in the room he did little talking, and left after $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.
3. When asked about the mention in the document pertaining to fire in Kiev library, about the arrest and execution of a group of lawyers who tried to present the status of Ukraine as a colony of Russia in the U.N. Subject said that he had heard of a rumor about an underground party consisting of 10-15 men, some former law students from Lviv, who were arrested and shot about 3-4 years ago. Subject added that this was not mentioned in the press, and that he did not have any concrete knowledge of the affair.
4. Subject knew of one incident where in Lviv a student was expelled from the University for planning to blow up a section of the city. This incident took place in 1966. About an organized form of underground Subject was unaware, saying that as far as he knew none existed at the present time, and since he had been a student in Lviv there never was.

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5. Prof. MEDVAYLO will arrive presently in the U.S. Subject promised to introduce him to Source. Subject added that MEDVAYLO, although he is a Ukrainian, does not speak the language, and does not want to learn it. Added that MEDVAYLO studied law in Moscow, where he learned Russian, and upon returning to the Ukraine never bothered to relearn his native language.

6. Subject does not believe there will be repressions against Ukrainian poets and writers for works that are comparable to the poetry of SEBASTYENKO, since many Ukrainians are in high positions in the party. He mentioned PIDKORNIY and SZCHERBYTSKY as examples. Subject said that it would be morally wrong for Ukrainians who have high rank in the party to repress their own people. At this he praised SEBASTYENKO for being a very good Ukrainian who was not afraid to speak up against Khrushchev, knowing the consequences of such an action. Subject expects changes in the government of the Ukrainian SSR in the near future. Among those to go will be KOVPAK who is old and useless.

7. Subject enjoyed article in SUCHASNIET about SOSUNA written by Mystryenko and article by Daria Robot about the journal RANOK. Subject criticized SUCHASNIET saying that too many articles were written in an "anti-Soviet spirit". Source asked that Subject show him an article that was so anti-Soviet, and that they might discuss it, but Subject declined.

8. Source asked about the fact that many Ukrainians are not conscious of their national identity and when asked what nationality they are, many reply that for them it does not matter if they are Ukrainians or Russians. Subject said that this is not true, all Ukrainians are proud of their nationality identity and he never heard of a Ukrainian saying that he does not care what he is. Source told Subject not to be naive, and that recently there was an article in the Soviet Ukrainian press, where writers complain about the fact that many youngsters do not want to study their own language or literature. Subject did not reply, but said that he

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considers himself a Ukrainian and is proud of it.

9. Subject said that he worked for a time in the "Bilshovyk" factory in Kiev. Said that workers were usually in their 30's and early 40's, most of them with a secondary education. When asked about the fact that workers were to a large degree Russified in the Donbas and Donetsk regions, Subject did not answer. Instead said that in Kiev, many workers are interested in Ukrainian literature, and the young poets in particular. Many workers go to youth cafes in Kiev to poetry readings where young Ukrainian poets attend.

10. During the Christmas vacation, Subject was in Washington D.C. for 5 days. He said that Washington impressed him and he enjoyed his trip very much.

11. A meeting was arranged for Tuesday 11 Jan. 1966 at 7:00 P.M. in the International house. Subject asked Source to bring with him VITVITY and some other Ukrainian students if he wanted to. Source agreed, and promised to bring graphics that he had promised, plus a few books. In addition Subject suggested that they have a party.

12. Source received a book "New Methods of Economic Management in the USSR" published by the "Novosti Press Agency Publishing House".